

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

County Prevention Policy

**Policy
Number**

A-114

Page

1 of 3

County Prevention Policy

Prevention is defined as an active process of creating conditions and fostering personal attributes that promote self-sufficiency and the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Purpose

The prevention policy is designed to support the Board of Supervisors' leadership role in planning and facilitating prevention initiatives and services throughout the region and to guide program development and funding within County government. The policy is Countywide and interdepartmental in scope, since the social, physical and economic problems related to the quality of life of individuals and cost-effective provision of services cross departmental and organizational lines.

Background

California counties are the public service delivery arm of the State. Due to State and Federal program requirements and funding limitations, counties are structured to provide services to individuals, families and the community in response to problems after they have reached a critical stage. This reactive, crisis intervention results in the provision of intensive and costly services. At all governmental levels, there is increasing awareness that a prevention approach, creating conditions that promote and sustain the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities, can address the underlying causes of the problems and crises that County services address.

Prevention may provide the more cost-effective, long-term approach for government and the optimal approach for strengthening the ability of individuals, families and communities to achieve a desired quality of life.

The nature of the family in the United States is changing. It includes more than the traditional two-parent households with children. A broader definition of families must be included to encompass the full range of households, e.g. single parent families, children and their foster parents and the other appropriate family units that are increasingly common within our society. The ethnic and cultural diversities of the populations served in the development of prevention programs and strategies is critical. A prevention policy must be broad in the manner in which it defines the family and the provision of support to make the family successful.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

County Prevention Policy

**Policy
Number**

A-114

Page

2 of 3

Assumptions

The following assumptions underlie the Board policy:

- The family, defined in broadest sense, is the primary care giver and source of social learning. The family must be supported and, when necessary, strengthened.
- Children and youth are inherently valuable members of our society and are entitled to love, respect and guidance. To ensure proper development, their basic needs for safety, shelter, food, education, access to proper physical, social, and mental health services, and opportunities to develop self-worth and self-reliance must be met.
- If individuals and families are unable to ensure their basic needs, it is the responsibility of the community to assist them with services. These services should be effective, integrated, accessible, efficient, and culturally appropriate.
- Conditions presently exist which produce social problems such as welfare dependency, poverty, crime, gangs, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, family breakdown and the abuse of children, spouses and seniors. The results of those conditions affect all persons in the County and can most effectively be addressed by the shared efforts of the citizenry, the private sector, community-based organizations and government.
- The County of San Diego in its regional role has a unique opportunity to provide leadership in planning, developing, implementing, and promoting prevention programs.
- Prevention programs lead to the development of capable individuals, families and communities, reducing the demand for health, criminal justice system, and social services.
- A comprehensive County Prevention policy and system of prevention services results from the collaborative efforts of the leadership of the Board of Supervisors and the support and recommendations provided by communities, advisory groups and service providers.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

County Prevention Policy

**Policy
Number**

A-114

Page

3 of 3

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. The County shall initiate and sustain a process of creating conditions and fostering personal attributes that promote the well-being and self-sufficiency of individuals, families and communities.
2. A prevention approach will guide and be incorporated into the full range of County programs for individuals, families and communities.
3. All new programs, plans and policies will be evaluated in terms of their support for and conformity with the County Prevention Policy.
4. Prevention will be a priority of the Board as it develops State and Federal legislative initiatives.
5. To the maximum extent possible, funding will be provided for prevention-based services.
6. The Board of Supervisors and County staff take leadership in establishing collaboration and partnerships with the educational institutions, the private and community-based organizations, and other governmental agencies to implement the County Prevention Policy.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-01.

Board Action

12-11-90 (51)

5-15-96 (11)

CAO Reference

1. Chief Administrative Office